

Over its 150-year history, Oregon has earned a reputation as a progressive, forward thinking STATE. We Oregonians are not without our quirks, but we embrace them with enthusiasm and wear them with pride. We have watched our economy change from one based on forestry and wood products to one that has become a leader in high-tech innovation, from wood chips to silicon chips. Millions of people around the world know of Oregon because of companies like Nike, Intel, and Columbia Sportswear that call Oregon home.

As our STATE embarks on another 150 years, Oregon is already working to cultivate new economies grounded in alternative energy, green buildings, and clean technology. Wind, geothermal, and wave energy are either already being generated in Oregon or will be soon. The solar energy industry has recognized the quality of Oregon's workforce and is moving to our STATE in a big way.

But as Oregon embraces the new economy and new technology, we have not forgotten those places for which we have become famous. With the help of this body, thousands of acres of Oregon's most beautiful, rugged, and pristine areas are destined for permanent protection. The anticipated additions of the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness, the Copper Salmon Wilderness, the Badlands Wilderness, the Spring Basin Wilderness, and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument guarantee future generations of Americans will see firsthand why Oregon was the NATION's first destination resort.

We are all aware that these are serious times that require our full and undivided attention if we are going to restore America's greatness as an economic power and rebuild our reputation with the rest of the world. But at the same time, I believe there is value at looking back to celebrate a place which has done so much to help make this country great. Please join me at wishing the great STATE of Oregon a happy birthday and many more to come.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Oregon's 150th birthday. On February 14 of this year, we will begin a year-long celebration of those who invested their lives in making Oregon a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I was born in Myrtle Creek, OR, the son of a sawmill worker and grew up in Roseburg, OR. I later moved to East Multnomah County with my family and am truly blessed to call Oregon my home and share all of its natural beauty with my family.

There are so many diverse events that take place all across Oregon which give our State its unique character. The Shakespeare Festival held in Ashland, OR, draws tens of thousands of people from all over the country and is one of the oldest non-profit theater companies in the world. The Pendleton Roundup, located in Eastern Oregon, is one of the largest rodeos in the world

and has been going strong for nearly one hundred years.

Oregon is one of the most geographically diverse States in the country and people from all across the state love to celebrate the great Oregon outdoors. The Hood to Coast Relay, which starts at Mount Hood and ends in Seaside Oregon, is the largest relay in the world. Every year, Oregonians compete in six events at the Pole Peddle Paddle in Bend, OR, a relay race that begins at the top of Mount Bachelor and ends on the grassy banks of the Deschutes River. The Pole Peddle Paddle consists of a leg in alpine skiing/snowboarding, cross-country skiing, biking, running, canoe/kayaking and a sprint to the finish line.

Each of these events and the many other cultural, artistic and civic festivals held in the State—will have a special resonance this year as we honor our sesquicentennial.

But even more than the beautiful vistas of Oregon or the countless celebrations, Oregon is defined by the people who live there. I've traveled all over the State and met so many amazing Oregonians who continue to carry on the legacy of innovation and hard work that has transformed our State into an influential civic laboratory and high tech hub. Oregon has taken the lead on issues vital to our natural resources and led the way in producing some of the finest goods in the country. As a United States Senator, I couldn't be prouder to represent such a wonderful State, filled with people who are incredibly kind and welcoming.

I encourage my fellow Oregonians to commemorate Oregon's 150th birthday by taking part in local celebrations of our culture and history and volunteering some of your time to a service project in your community. I invite my colleagues here in the Senate, your constituents, and citizens from around the world to come to Oregon this year and experience all our wonderful State has to offer. Regardless of where you live whether you are in North Carolina or Texas or Europe or South America a world of opportunity awaits you in Oregon. Come see how together we can make Oregon's next 150 years even more memorable.

(Mr. MERKLEY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 48) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 48

Whereas 53,000 settlers traveled the Oregon Trail, the longest of the overland routes used in westward expansion of the United States;

Whereas approximately 80 Native American tribes inhabited Oregon before the pioneers settled, making Oregon rich with Native American history and culture;

Whereas the "Father" of Oregon, John McLoughlin, valued the Oregon Country and reached out to settlers from the United States who were heading west to seek a new life in a land rich with resources and opportunity;

Whereas Oregon was admitted to the Union 150 years ago, on February 14th, 1859;

Whereas Oregon is the only State in the United States to have a 2-sided flag;

Whereas Oregon is home to the deepest lake in the United States, Crater Lake, known for its beautiful deep blue waters;

Whereas Oregon is home to the Sea Lion Caves, the largest sea lion caves in the world, where Steller sea lions and a variety of wild birds reside;

Whereas the State fish of Oregon, the Chinook salmon, is the largest of the Pacific salmon;

Whereas among the natural bounty of Oregon, the State produces some of the finest nuts, berries, pears, wines, and microbrews in the world;

Whereas the varied geography of Oregon ranges from mountains to rivers, deserts to lakes, fossil beds to deep canyons;

Whereas the forests of Oregon have diverse ecologies and histories, from temperate rainforests to ancient old growth forests;

Whereas Oregon is home to Forest Park, the largest urban forest reserve in the United States;

Whereas Oregon is the home of companies such as Nike, Intel, and Columbia Sportswear, which are responsible for employing tens of thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas the largest city in Oregon, Portland, known as the "Rose City", is home to the International Rose Test Garden, which was founded in 1917 and is the oldest official rose garden in the United States;

Whereas Oregon has been a national leader in democratic innovations, such as a ballot initiative system that dates back to the turn of the 20th century;

Whereas the Oregon legislature was the first in the United States to pass a "bottle bill", a landmark piece of legislation that promoted conservation and environmental responsibility; and

Whereas the Oregon legislature has passed a "beach bill" and instituted a state-wide land use planning process to protect the very resources that brought people to Oregon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the people of the United States should observe and celebrate the sesquicentennial of Oregon on February 14, 2009, to honor the admission of Oregon as the 33rd State of the United States; and

(B) Oregonians should be honored for their pioneering spirit and innovation; and

(2) the Senate respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit to the Governor of the State of Oregon an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the minority leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105, adopted April 13, 1989, as amended by S. Res. 149, adopted October 5, 1993, as amended by Public Law 105-275, further amended by S. Res. 75, adopted March 25, 1999, amended by S. Res. 383, adopted October 27,

2000, and amended by S. Res. 355, adopted November 13, 2002, and further amended by S. Res. 480, adopted November 20, 2004, the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 111th Congress: Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, Co-chairman; Senator JON KYL of Arizona, Administrative Co-chairman; Senator MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky, Co-chairman; Senator RICHARD LUGAR of Indiana; Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama; Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH of Ohio; and Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Fri-

day, February 13; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the time be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, as announced earlier, we expect to be in a position tomorrow evening to vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:12 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 13, 2009, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, February 12, 2009:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

LEON E. PANETTA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.